

This was the [same] Aharon and Moshe. (6:26)

Rashi explains that there are places in the Torah where Moshe *Rabbeinu's* name precedes that of Aharon *HaKohen*. Likewise, there are instances where Aharon's name precedes that of Moshe. The **Chasam Sofer** wonders why specifically it is in the above *pasuk* that we find Aharon's name written first. (Obviously, Moshe *Rabbeinu*, being the *Rabban Shel Kol Yisrael*, quintessential leader of our People, should have his name written first. When Aharon's name precedes Moshe's there must be a reason, a lesson to be derived therein.) Indeed, as Hashem's primary agent for leading *Klal Yisrael* out of Egypt, Moshe's name should be mentioned first. What specifically happened to catapult Aharon to precede Moshe in being written first in the Torah?

The *Chasam Sofer* explains that toward the end of *Parashas Shemos* the Torah writes concerning Aharon, *V'ra'acha v'somach b'libo*, "And when he sees you he will rejoice in his heart" (*Shemos* 4:14). The power of *middos tovos*, positive character traits, of love and care for a fellow Jew, is what turned the tide. When an older brother takes pride in his younger brother's achievements when he manifests true love for his younger sibling; despite the fact that as a result of these achievements, the older brother will be relegated to second place, his name warrants first mention.

Aharon *HaKohen* wore the *Choshen HaMishpat*, Breastplate, over his heart. The *Choshen* had the names of the *Shivtei Kah*, Tribes, engraved on its precious stones. The heart that empathized with all of the nation, was the rightful place to be the repository for the *Choshen*.

A *talmid* came to the *Rosh Yeshivah* of Beth Medrash Govoah, **Horav Aharon Kotler, zl**, complaining of severe stomach pains. Shortly thereafter it was confirmed that he was experiencing an acute attack of appendicitis. *Rav* Aharon walked him to the door of his house (on his way to the car that would take him to the hospital for surgery) and bid him *refuah sheleimah*, wishing him a successful procedure and speedy recovery. One week later, *Rav* Aharon himself suffered from appendicitis. *Baruch Hashem*, the *Rosh Yeshivah* was healed. During his recuperation, a close student visited him. *Rav* Aharon said, "Hashem gave me a *shiur*, lesson, in *nosei b'ol im chaveiro*, 'Carrying the yoke together with his friend.' Had I demonstrated even greater empathy for that student, I would not have experienced this attack."